

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1 and 1-51 are pending in the application. No claims have been amended. Claims 1-51 have been canceled. Claims 52-66 have been added.

The Examiner rejected Claims 43-51 under 35 U.S.C. §101 stating the claimed subject matter is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has cancelled claims 43-51 without prejudice. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is moot.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-8, 16, 18, 20, 22-29, 37, 39, 41, 43, 48 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Cooper. The Examiner also rejected claims 10-14, 17, 19, 21, 31-35, 38, 40, 42, 45, 46, 49 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper in view of Levien. The Examiner also rejected claims 9, 30 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper in view of Alvarez, II, et al. Applicant respectfully submit that the claims 1-51 have been cancelled. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are moot.

Applicant has added Claims 52-66.

As shown in the claims added, the present invention includes an image compression apparatus and method for generating compressed code data of an image. In one embodiment, the image compression apparatus includes: a setting unit for setting the number of parts for dividing the image; a dividing unit for dividing the image until the image is divided into a plurality of image parts that satisfy the dividing number set by the setting part; and a compressing unit for generating compressed code data by compressing the image parts divided by the dividing part. The setting unit may set the number of parts for dividing the image so that: i) the dividing number corresponds to transmission line capacity and an image quality level (at least described in line 10 of page 43 to line 9 of page 44); ii) the dividing number corresponds to a transmission

line capacity and a rectangular domain (a least described in line 9 of page 46 to line 10 of page 47); iii) the dividing number corresponds to a transmission line capacity and a color component (at least described in line 11 of page 47 to line 4 of page 48); or iv) the dividing number corresponds to a transmission line capacity and a packet (at least described in line 23 of page 48 to line 14 of page 49).

As discussed above, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 52 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 53-56 depend indirectly on claim 52, and contains additional features that further limit claim 52, claims 53-56 are also in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 52.

The same limitations discussed above are included in the other independent claims, namely Claims 57 and 62. Therefore, for the same reasons, the present invention as claimed in Claims 57 and 62, as well as the claims that depend, directly or indirectly, on Claims 52, 57 and 62, are not obvious in view of the combination of Cooper and Levien.

Applicant submits the present invention as claimed is not anticipated, nor rendered obvious by the cited art. Cooper discloses a methodology of compressing an image by setting a code size and adjusting image quality level according to the set code size, while Levien discloses a methodology of implementing a screening algorithm with respect to a given enlargement ratio, such that the resulting code is divided into 17 segments that screen 16 output pixels. One of the differences between the present invention and the cited documents is that compression is conducted on the basis that an image is divided into plural image parts until the number of parts satisfy a set dividing number.

Also, the present invention as claimed includes setting the dividing number set based on various features, which are not shown in the cited references.

Based on these features, Applicant respectfully submit claims 52-66 as added are not anticipated, nor obvious, in view of the cited references.

CONCLUSION

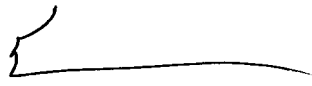
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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